

Pendleton on SBA investigation: Nothing to hide

By The Associated Press

Related story on A4.

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Small Business Administration is investigating Clarence M. Pendleton Jr.'s plans to turn management of a non-profit development group over to a business partner and her employee.

Meanwhile, the director of the local SBA has told Pendleton, chairman of the San Diego Civil Rights Commission, that no changes can be made until the federal and local review are completed.

The probes are the result of Pendleton's desire to fire the 14 staff members of the San Diego County Local Development Corp. and replace them with a group headed by Sydney Novell and Ron Johnson, who works with Novell. Novell is Pendleton's business partner and is an aide to Pendleton on the Civil Rights Commission.

Wayne Foren, director of the office of Economic Development for the SBA, said in an internal memo that he's concerned Pendleton "is changing the LDC from a public-private partnership with a public purpose to an entity

that he controls as a profit center for himself and the private packagers" of loans.

Pendleton, however, said Monday he welcomes a federal audit because he has nothing to hide.

"There's nothing in this for me ... I have no personal financial interest," he said.

The Local Development Corporation was an offshoot of the San Diego Urban League, which Pendleton headed until 1982, when he was named by President Reagan to the Civil Rights Commission.

The corporation was established

in 1978 to help local businesses get loans backed by the SBA. Under Pendleton's leadership, the corporation has become one of the country's leading packagers of SBA-guaranteed loans for local businesses, run primarily by women and minorities.

Pendleton said turning the operation of the corporation over to Novell is "a legitimate business decision" that will free the group from government constraints. The corporation currently is financed through block grants.

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Triad veterans miffed

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posal a success.

"I'm surprised that the aldermen haven't stood up at this point," Spilberg said, adding that the aldermen are "avoiding the issue" for political purposes.

But some of the aldermen had other views.

"I was approached by some of the people in the armed forces about naming the coliseum after (Joel) and I thought it was a grand idea," said East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell. "My feeling is that it would have an excellent chance. There should be a groundswell of support from the community."

Mrs. Newell added that she would offer help in any function needed to help the veterans' cause. Fellow Alderman Larry W. Womble agreed.

"He (Joel) has not only distinguished himself with honor, but also the city by being the area's only Medal of Honor winner," Womble said. "There are a lot of favorable characteristics in their proposal."

Still, it is too early to speculate on the chances of the proposal, Womble said, noting the importance of waiting for all the proposals to be submitted before a final choice is made.

Though the Joel proposal is the only one known to the public, other aldermen, including the West Ward's Robert S. Northington, indicated that other names have been suggested.

"I've had one or two names suggested to me," Northington said, "but I think it is too early to comment on any of them."

Northeast Ward Alderman Vivan H. Burke said her final opinion on a suggested name will depend heavily on what her constituents want.

"I need to review all the options before I state an opinion," she said, adding, "I have no problems with Joel. He's served his country well."

However, one board member who said she has made up her mind on the issue is Southwest Ward Alderman Lynn Harpe.

"I would prefer that it not be named in honor of a particular person," she said. "I would think that every veteran and family member of veterans could appreciate a more general name."

The new coliseum will replace Memorial Coliseum, which

originally was supposed to contain a memorial to local veterans, but never did.

The new arena will be constructed jointly with public funds

and funds provided by Wake Forest University. It has been designed, but not yet been designed.

Meanwhile, Barnhill said the veterans are organizing a petition

drive to bring the issue of a name to the forefront.

"We're not giving up," he said. "The fight has really just begun."

News Briefs

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gone through in the '60s. If they want a piece of us, I say come on. We are ready to take them on, and we expect to take them on for 76 more years."

Mayor W. Wilson Goode extended the state of

emergency he imposed in the Southwest Philadelphia area last Nov. 22, saying the rights of citizens to live anywhere in the city must be protected.

Richie saves school with a \$45,000 donation

LOS ANGELES -- A \$45,000 check from singer/entertainer Lionel Richie to a California school and culture center has allowed the school to pay off its debts and remain open.

The Sheenway School and Culture Center, a 14-year-old, school in the Watts section of Los Angeles, owed \$45,000 in back taxes stemming from a debt for withholding taxes due the IRS from employee paychecks in 1981 and 1982. The school was given until Friday, Dec. 18, to pay the taxes or the school would have been put on the selling block.

Richie learned of the school's plight from singer Janice Marie Johnson, a former member of the pop group "A Taste of Honey" and a Sheenway alumna who now teaches Japanese dance at the school.

Johnson said she told Richie of the school's

financial troubles in November.

"He told me to keep him informed about the progress," Johnson said. "He wanted to help any way he could."

Richie, who could not be reached for comment, said in a statement released through his New York publicist, Victoria Rose, "I love helping kids. They are our future."

Johnson said, "He told me he likes to instill hope into the hearts of children. He realizes he didn't make it where he is alone. He hasn't forgotten where he came from."

According to DeJores Blunt, director of the school, Richie said it was the best Christmas present he had ever given in his life.

Agency had a very good '85

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Greensboro and Greenville, S.C. Most of the cases this year have involved North Carolina, since the district office picked up jurisdiction for South Carolina only about a year and a half ago, Ms. Bruner said.

Eighteen cases were filed in Charlotte this year, with 26 slated for U.S. District Court in 1986. Some of this year's cases included:

- A complaint against Electrolux Corp. of Goldsboro alleging that supervisors had sexually harassed women employees and fired one who refused to submit to sexual advances. The case was settled by a consent decree that provided \$9,000 in back pay to two women.
- A complaint against Old Dominion Freight Line Inc.,

alleging that a local driver and a long-distance driver were discharged because they were too old. A consent decree provided \$18,000 in back pay.

- A complaint alleging that Thompson Dental Co. failed to hire blacks because of their race and failed to promote women or pay them equal wages because of their sex at the company's Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh facilities. A consent decree provided \$28,450 in back pay for four people.

Ms. Bruner said suits were filed in October and November against the state Alcohol Law Enforcement Division and several other companies.

One pending case involves a

Raleigh motel where female housekeepers have refused to cooperate with EEOC investigators probing complaints of sexual harassment because they are afraid they'll be fired, she said. A judge ordered the motel to remove the housekeeping supervisor for 45 days so the investigation could continue without his intimidation.

Statistics show that North Carolina is neither more nor less discriminatory than other states, said Ms. Bruner. Discrimination complaints have been fairly consistent over the past few years after a decrease during the 1980-81 recession.

"The charge intake did drop during those depressed periods," she said. "It may be that people were afraid of losing their jobs."

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Jan. 7, Tues.	3 Hours	Introduction to VolkWrite	2 pm-5 pm	\$80
Jan. 9, Thurs.	3 Hours	Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3	2 pm-5 pm	\$80
Jan. 13, Mon.	3 Hours	Intermediate dBase III	2 pm-5 pm	\$80
Jan. 14, Tues.	3 Hours	Intermediate Lotus 1-2-3	9 am-12 pm	\$80
Jan. 14, Tues.	3 Hours	Symphony for New Users	2 pm-5 pm	\$80
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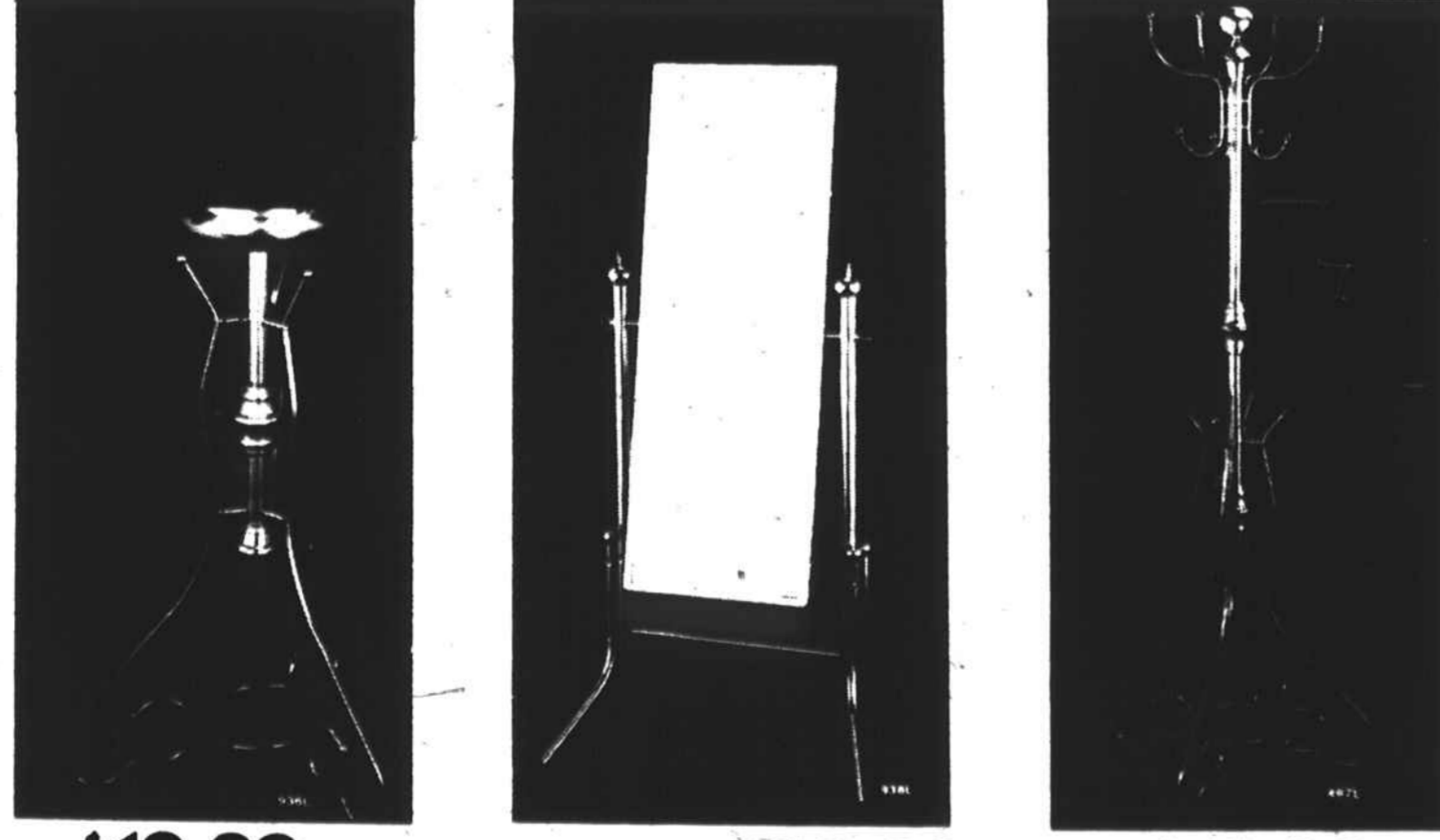


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